

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite intercalated by precipitated silica, the magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite having a Mg/Al molar ratio of between 2 and 4.

23-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim ~~[[27]]~~ 22, having a Si/trivalent Si/Al cation molar ratio equal to 1.

29. (Previously Presented) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, further comprising in addition to the silica intercalated between its layers, silica at its surface.

30. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 29, having a ~~Si/trivalent~~ Si/Al cation molar ratio of greater than 1.

31. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an ~~intercalated~~ a magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite as ~~claimed in claim 22~~ intercalated by precipitated silica, the magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite having a Mg/Al molar ratio of between 2 and 4, comprising a step of simultaneous adding to a vessel heel formed of water:

(a) either of (1) a solution comprising salts of ~~at least one divalent a~~ magnesium cation, and ~~of at least one trivalent an~~ aluminum cation, or of (2) two solutions, one comprising a salt of a ~~divalent~~ magnesium cation, and the other comprising a salt of a ~~trivalent~~ an aluminum cation,

(b) ~~[[of]]~~ a silicate solution, and

(c) ~~[[of]]~~ a basic agent solution~~[[,]]~~

~~in order to obtain the hydrotalcite.~~

32. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the duration of the simultaneous addition is between 30 and 90 minutes.

33. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 32, wherein the temperature during the simultaneous addition is maintained between 20 and 40° C.

34. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein, on conclusion of the simultaneous addition, the hydrotalcite obtained is heated, optionally between 80 and 95° C., for 1 to 3 hours.

35. (Withdrawn) A polymer or co-polymer composition, comprising as a filler, at least one hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22.

36. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polymer or co-polymer has at least one glass transition temperature of between -150 and +300° C.

37. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35, based on at least one thermoplastic elastomer.

38. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35 further comprising at least one coupling agent and/or at least one coating agent.

39. (Withdrawn) A finished article based on at least one composition as defined in claim 35.

40-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 30, having a Si/trivalent cation molar ratio of greater than 2.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The process for the preparation of ~~an intercalated~~ a magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 31, wherein ~~when said at least one divalent cation is Mg, Ni, Zn or Co, and said at least one trivalent cation is Al, Ga, Fe or Cr, and wherein the silicate solution is an alkali metal silicate solution.~~